

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 MCT-01 IO-13 SY-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12
HA-05 /097 W
-----076551 051617Z /41

O R 051415Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2196
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, ASEC, SHUM, TU
SUBJ: TURKS STRONGLY AFFECTED BY LATEST DIPLOMATIC ASSASSI-
NATIONS

REF: A) 77 ANKARA 4868; B) 77 ANKARA 5323

1. SUMMARY: JUNE 2 KILLING OF WIFE OF TURKISH AMBASSADOR
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TO SPAIN AND HER BROTHER-IN-LAW HAS HAD HEAVY IMPACT HERE.
STORY PROMINENT IN WEEKEND MEDIA, WHICH CARRIED MANY EXPRESSIONS
OF CONDOLENCES, INCLUDING THOSE OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND
ARMENIAN PATRIARCH IN ISTANBUL (LATTER DISSOCIATED HIS
COMMUNITY FROM VIOLENCE). POLICE REPORTEDLY HAVE STEPPED
UP SECURITY FOR TURKISH ARMENIAN COMMUNITY. SOME ELEMENTS
OF PRESS CALL FOR RETALIATION IN WAKE OF NEWEST ATTACK FOR

WHICH GROUPS IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES AS ARMENIAN HAVE CLAIMED CREDIT, BUT OTHER WRITERS URGE CAUTION. PRESS NOTES ALLEGED LINKS BETWEEN ARMENIAN AND PALESTINIAN TERRORIST GROUPS, AND ONE REPORT SEEKS TO SHOW CONNECTION WITH GREEK CYPRIOTS. WE RECOMMEND URGING U.S. ARMENIAN LEADERS TO DENOUNCE ATTACKS AND DISSOCIATE THEIR GROUPS FROM VIOLENCE. END SUMMARY.

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2. REPORTING ON ASSASSINATION OF WIFE AND BROTHER-IN-LAW OF TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN ON JUNE 2 PROMINENT IN MEDIA DURING JUNE 3-4 WEEKEND. STORIES WERE FACTUAL AND FOLLOWED DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY AS THEY BECAME AVAILABLE. PRESS PROMINENTLY PLAYED STRONG REACTION OF TURKEY'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND THEIR EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY SENT TO AMBASSADOR KUNERALP. MOST PAPERS INCLUDED FACT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SENT MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES TO PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT.

3. MAJOR PAPERS ON JUNE 4 REPORTED THAT ARMENIAN PATRIARCH IN ISTANBUL HAD SENT MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT KORUTURK AND ACTING HEAD OF GOVERNMENT EXPRESSING OUTRAGE AT THE INCIDENT FOR WHICH AN ARMENIAN GROUP HAS REPORTEDLY CLAIMED CREDIT. PRESS ALSO INCLUDED STATEMENT MADE BY ARMENIAN COMMUNITY LEADER IN ISTANBUL DENOUNCING KILLINGS AND DISSOCIATING ARMENIAN COMMUNITY IN TURKEY FROM TERRORIST INCIDENTS. PRESS NOTED POLICE HAVE INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES TO PROTECT ARMENIAN PATRIARCHATE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMUNITY FROM POSSIBLE ACTS OF RETALIATION.

4. AFTER INITIAL SHOCK OF KILLINGS, SOME ELEMENTS OF TURKISH PRESS ON JUNE 4 REACTED HARSHLY TO INCIDENT AND CALLED FOR SHARP TURKISH RESPONSE. SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN IN ITS HEADLINE SAID THE TURKISH PUBLIC IS ASKING HOW LONG TURKEY WILL CONTINUE TO ENDURE ATTACKS WITHOUT RETALIATING. MASS APPEAL HURRIYET ASKS AT THE END OF ITS LEAD ARTICLE, "WHEN WILL THESE PERFIDIOUS ASSASSINATIONS END?" TYPICAL OF RIGHTIST REACTION, NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY-ORIENTED ORTA DOGU IN A FRONT PAGE OPINION COLUMN CONCLUDES, "WAR MUST BE ANSWERED WITH WAR BECAUSE THE ENEMY UNDERSTANDS THAT LANGUAGE."

5. BUT THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN CALLS FOR A CALM AND REASONED REACTION. WRITING IN CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN JUNE 5, RAUF TAMER SAYS THAT OFTEN WHEN PEOPLE HEAR NEWS OF AN INCIDENT, THEY TEND TO JUMP TO SOMETIMES UNWARRANTED CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF VARIOUS GROUPS. TAMER WARNS AGAINST A TOO HASTY JUDGMENT IN THIS CASE.

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6. REFLECTING A WIDESPREAD TURKISH BELIEF THAT TERRORIST
ORGANIZATIONS ARE LINKED, HURRIYET ON JUNE 3 PRINTED A STORY
DATELINED ATHENS SAYING THERE IS EVIDENCE OF A POSSIBLE TIE
IN THE MADRID SLAYINGS BETWEEN RADICAL ARMENIAN GROUPS AND
PALESTINIANS. SPECIFICALLY, HURRIYET REPORTED THAT WEST
GERMANY RECENTLY ARRESTED A PALESTINIAN CARRYING A LIST WHICH
INCLUDED NAMES OF TURKISH AMBASSADORS TO SPAIN AND BELGIUM.
OVER THE WEEKEND, HURRIYET ALSO REPORTED THAT:
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-- IN A CALL TO AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE IN BEIRUT, THE SO-CALLED

"SECRET ARMY FOR THE LIBERATION OF ARMENIA" ISSUED A CALL FOR SOLIDARITY AMONG REVOLUTIONARY TURKISH, ARAB, PALESTINIAN, KURDISH, AND IRANIAN GROUPS TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE FOR RESTORATION OF ARMENIAN RIGHTS.

-- THE SAME GROUP ISSUED A WARNING TO SPAIN NOT TO TAKE MEASURES AGAINST ARMENIANS LIVING IN SPAIN, AND

-- INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE IN NICOSIA INDICATED CYPRIOT PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU MET WITH ARMENIAN LEADERS IN THE UNITED STATES JUST TWO DAYS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATIONS IN MADRID. ACCORDING TO HURRIYET, CYPRIOT EDEK LEADER LYSSARIDES HAD CONSULTED WITH ARMENIAN LEADERS JUST SHORTLY BEFORE THE MURDERS OF THE TURKISH AMBASSADORS IN VIENNA AND PARIS AND THE TURKISH FIRST SECRETARY IN BEIRUT.

7 IN REPORTING MADRID INCIDENT, PRESS IN MOST CASES TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND READERS THAT TWO KILLINGS IN SPAIN BRING TO EIGHT THE NUMBER OF TURKISH DIPLOMATS AND OFFICIALS WHICH SELF-STYLED ARMENIAN TERRORIST GROUPS CLAIM TO HAVE MURDERED IN RECENT YEARS. THOSE KILLED ARE:

MEHMET BAYDUR AND BAHADIR DEMIR, SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA, 1973

AMBASSADOR DANIS TUNALIGIL, VIENNA, 1975

AMBASSADOR ISMAIL EREZ, PARIS, 1975

FIRST SECRETARY OKTAY GEDIT, BEIRUT, 1976

AMBASSADOR TAHA CARIM, THE VATICAN, 1977

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MRS. KUNERALP AND FORMER AMBASSADOR BALCIOGLU, MADRID, 1978
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8. BEGIN LOU. ACTION REQUESTED: WE AGAIN RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT URGE US ARMENIAN LEADERS TO DENOUNCE VIOLENCE AND TO DISSOCIATE THEIR ORGANIZATIONS PUBLICLY FROM THE ATTACKS ON TURKS FOR WHICH GROUPS SELF-DESCRIBED AS ARMENIAN HAVE REPORTEDLY CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY. WHETHER IT WOULD HELP STOP THE KILLINGS OR NOT, A STRONGLY ANTI-VIOLENCE STAND BY RESPONSIBLE US ARMENIAN LEADERS WOULD HELP STRENGTHEN THE US POSITION IF SOMEDAY THE PRESSURE FOR RETALIATION BECOMES HARDER FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO RESIST AND WE NEED TO COUNSEL RESTRAINT.
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